Historic Preservation

QUARTERLY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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GLENMONT

One of the first of America's memorials dedicated to an inventor and industrialist is the Edison Museum at West Orange, N. J., which has been opened to the public by the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation. In a group of structures dating back to 1887 are the relics of the beginnings of electrification, sound recording, motion pictures, electronics and even automation.

Visitors to the museum will view Edison's original chemical laboratory where nothing has been changed since the inventor's death in 1931. Built in 1886 by architect H. Hudson Holly, *Glenmont*, a 23-room gabled Victorian structure, stands in 13½ acres of landscaped grounds, and contains 10,000 technical volumes collected by the inventor during 44 years of study and invention, as well as his desk, the world's oldest motion picture screen and numerous autographed photographs presented by world-famous people.

Deeds to the land and laboratory were presented to the government on Dec. 5 and Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay designated *Glenmont* a national historic site under non-federal ownership, its permanent preservation and operation to be assured by cooperative agreement between the donors and the National Park Service.

WINTERTHUR FELLOWSHIPS

The University of Delaware and the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum announce graduate fellowships in Early American Arts and Cultural History available to those "who have shown marked ability and exceptional interest in Early American Studies, particularly art, history and literature."

Courses in English and American history, art, literature and thought given at the University, are coordinated with laboratory work at the Museum, where intensive study of American arts and architecture are stressed. Five fellowships are open to college graduates in one of the humanities, social sciences or American studies. Annual grants up to $2,000 each will be made for two years study to candidates for the degree of Master of Arts in this program.

Applications are due by Feb. 20, 1956. Applications and further information available from The Co-ordinator, Winterthur Program, University of Delaware, Newark, Del.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Members or member organizations who have scheduled special events for their projects may have them listed without charge in a national calendar of special events by sending full information to Robert Meyer, Jr., Box 121 Cooper Station, New York 3, N. Y., before March 15.

TENNESSEE MARKERS

Campbell H. Brown, director of highway marking of the Tennessee Historical Commission, will send interested members of the National Trust copies of the 1956 *Guide to Tennessee Historical Markers* free upon request. Address inquiries to Division of Information, Department of Conservation, Room 233, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville 3, Tenn.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS

Philadelphia, Pa. "Though the path is new and untried in Pennsylvania, I tried it, and the final conclusion in this instance is clear," declared Judge Joseph Sloane in Municipal Court #7 on October 14, 1955, in upholding a Philadelphia ordinance (Bill No. 213) which subjects present and future signs and advertising structures in the Independence Mall area to approval by the Art Commission.

"The prevention of unsightly advertising, the need for external excellency in the Independence Mall Area is within the legislative domain of the city. Such control is justified by:

"1. the interest of the Nation, the Commonwealth and and the City in maintaining the symbol of our historic past—the hallowed site of the Independence Hall Area.

"2. The growing trend throughout the nation toward preservation and conservation of our historic sites,

"3. the commercial benefit to be served through attraction of visitors to our city."

Austin, Texas. In addition to exempting properties of the American Legion, American Veterans of World War II, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans and Catholic War Veterans from taxation on buildings or lands occupied by them, the legislature of Texas has extended the privilege to non-profit organizations in the preservation field. Article 7150 of the Revised Civil Statutes, 1925 (sect. 20) states that "any non-profit organization chartered or incorporated under the Texas Statutes for the purpose of preserving historical buildings, sites and landmarks, not leased or otherwise used with a view to profit, shall be exempt from taxation in this State."

Washington, D.C. Congressman Frank Thompson, Jr., (D., N.J.) is proposing an amendment to H.R. 6874 to be discussed at the hearings to be resumed during the 2nd Session of the 84th Congress which convened in January, 1956. The bill proposes Fine Arts representation in the President's Cabinet for the first time, in the form of a Federal Advisory Commission on the Arts, in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Library of Thomas Edison at *Glenmont*, West Orange, N. J. Thomas Alva Edison Foundation

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Nathaniel S. Keith and Carl Feiss, urban renewal consultants, have just completed a "Report on the Renewal Possibilities of the Historic Triangle of the City of San Juan" for the Municipal Housing Authority of the Capital of Puerto Rico. The 64-page report is illustrated with drawings, photographs, maps and plats. The National Trust has a limited number of copies available at cost ($1.50) which will be distributed to member organizations interested in this type of historic preservation.

In stating their conclusions on the importance of saving the larger older buildings in the heart of San Juan Antiguo, the consultants state, "In summary, it can be said that the Historic Triangle of San Juan deserves and requires cultivation and revival as the living heart and the focal point of the city. It can also be said that such cultivation is bound to succeed and that from it will flower a new city growing from the seed of the old."

HERITAGE OF BRICK

A people that has no interest in its own historical and architectural monuments of its past can hardly consider itself fully mature as a nation. The growing concern with these matters in the United States is an important indication of our own cultural development; but the problem of preserving the tangible reminders of this heritage, in brick and wood and stone, is not an easy one.

In this city the Municipal Art Society in conjunction with the Society of Architectural Historians has been working hard to focus public attention on buildings the disappearance of which would be a serious loss. During the time it took to compile a list of some 250 such buildings a few years ago it developed that 20 per cent of them were destroyed or drastically altered. Here is a case where "there ought to be a law"; there ought to be a law to give governmental authorities a carefully controlled power to condemn buildings for public ownership on the basis of their historic or artistic value just as sites can now be condemned for other public purposes.

At present structures of national interest are usually saved for posterity, when they are saved, by spontaneous action of private individuals. *Mount Vernon* itself would probably have been lost to the nation a century ago if it had not been for a campaign begun by an energetic lady from South Carolina. The National Park Service administers some historic sites and buildings, with scant Federal funds. A start toward tackling that problem on a national scale was made by Congress in 1949 in establishing the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Sometimes strictly local interest—as recently in Nashville—can be stimulated to save a building worth saving. But so much has already been lost, and there is so much to be done, that public and private agencies working together have no time to lose.

Editorial—N. Y. *Times* 12/27/55

Headquarters of the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery. With a sense of history and fitness, the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce chose for its headquarters the house built in 1848 by Berry Owens—a distinguished example of Greek revival architecture of the ante-bellum south. No major changes have been made to adapt it for office use and the first floor has been furnished with suitable Empire and early Victorian furniture. The iron furniture on the porches and lawns was made at the old Janney foundry, operated in Montgomery before the Civil War. Purchase and furnishing of the historic house was made possible by 50 members of the State Chamber whose guiding motto has been "An Historic Building serves the Present and fashions the Future."
Lauens Pierce, Photographer

ZACHARY TAYLOR

Under the heading "An Echo of History We Ill Could Lose," the Louisville *Courier-Journal* comments editorially on the fate of *Springfield* (1794-95), home of President Zachary Taylor. The original grant which was sold to his father in 1792 for a mere ten pounds, has shrunk to 35 acres of land immediately adjoining the house, and surrounded by a modern subdivision.

"Sale of the famed Zachary Taylor homestead for subdivision purposes," says the editor, "is a sad reminder of a golden opportunity lost by Congress years ago. That was the chance to acquire the Taylor house and grounds as an addition to the adjacent Zachary Taylor National Cemetery and preserve the historic homestead of our twelfth president as a National Monument. . . .

"Fortunately the private owners of *Springfield* have preserved the unofficial monument well. And it is good to hear from Mark Wakefield that the preservation zeal of the Levis and the Lamptons will not go for nought—that the old house will be preserved, if only as the central feature of the new subdivision. It is a rich storehouse of the colorful past that would make Kentucky and the nation the poorer were it ever to fall to the winds of 'progress' or general unconcern."

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TOWNSCAPE

Grady Clay, in the October 1955 *Arts in Louisville*, has written an editorial worthy of reprinting here in its entirety. Excerpts follow:

This is a lament for the forgotten man in today's city, the sightseer, the rubbernecker, the fellow with or without a family, who enjoys gazing at his surroundings.

For he is having a hard time. His surroundings are being changed and uglified faster than ever before. If he drives on a casual sight-seeing trip, he's liable to be forced off the highway or arrested for obstructing traffic. If he's a saunterer, a stroller, a pleasure-bent walker, his fate is even worse. Where does he walk? Alongside a concrete channel carrying two-ton machines at 40 miles per hour past his left shoulder? Along a crowded sidewalk with the sky almost concealed by overhanging signs?

This man who enjoys looking at his surroundings is hemmed in by noise, distraction, traffic, jumbled buildings, trash, ugliness in a thousand forms and shapes. Futhermore, today's urban scene—which we call Townscape—is becoming a hodge-podge, a mess, all awry, cut-up, junky, disordered, ill-arranged.

The reason is easy to find: our Townscape is being shaped by people and by forces oblivious to beauty. The highway engineer reigns supreme. He operates free-hand on the Townscape with one purpose: to move traffic.

This is not enough. The interest and the inner needs of the onlooker, the viewer, the spectator must always be considered whenever Townscape is changed.

First, what do we mean by Townscape? This is a term we are borrowing from the British, especially from their excellent *Architectural Review*. The term is used in England to describe "the art of urban design." We mean something beyond that. In this column, Townscape will include discussions of the city's visual appearance, of the effect of traffic on objects and vistas of beauty; of the visual changes being wrought by man, and of the effect of those changes on him. (This is a matter of relationships, in which cause and effect must be studied together.)

Townscape is a term endowed with wonderful plasticity. This we intend to exploit to the fullest. It includes the unholy visual horrors being foisted on the public in the guise of "traffic cut-throughs." It includes the startling, gaunt and unkempt backsides of sheds, garages and other buildings exposed by new parking lots. It includes the highway and sidewalk robbery being pulled off by the overhead sign-builders who preempt the public's light and air above sidewalks without being taxed for it.

In the name of Townscape, we must examine the appearance of city and suburb, of highway and bridges, of street furniture (light poles, street signs, etc.) and subdivision layout; of domestic architecture (the mass-produced, two-bedroom shoebox, or the custom-built monstrosity).

Townscape, until now, has been a journalistic desert. Published criticisms of local Townscape are rare. For our society is oddly organized. We lavish columns of newsprint daily on criticisms of new movies, TV shows, and professional sports, but practically no space is given to a critical review of the production and appearance of our visual surroundings—Townscape.

We also need to be reminded that beauty is a thing to be desired for its own rewards; that by adding beauty to the aims of city planners, we do not increase their load; we lighten it. Beauty is the great popularizer. The sooner it is brought into city plans, the more popular support those plans will get.

Julian Huxley has phrased the problem most eloquently:

"Once we really grasp that our duty and our destiny is to provide and to live a richer life, we shall regard it as socially immoral to build ugly factories, to plan a drab and lifeless housing estate (i.e. subdivision), or to spend money on vulgar public buildings . . . Beauty is part of the necessary emotional cement of society."

Although no such decisions have been rendered in local courts to our knowledge, it is refreshing to find language like this in a recent majority opinion of the United States Supreme Court in the case of Berman *vs.* Parker:

"If those who govern the District of Columbia decide that the Nation's capital should be beautiful as well as sanitary, there is nothing in the Fifth Amendment that stands in their way."

—Grady Clay

DESTRUCTION

Fires, sub-divisions and condemnation of buildings past rehabilitation marked the nation's record in the past quarter for destruction of historic buildings of varied degrees of architectural significance. The automobile, however, continues to be the leading agency of destruction, with super highways, parking and used car lots and drive-in shopping centers claiming important structures from coast to coast:

Shopping centers: The handsome Greek revival structure built in 1840 by Capt. John Gould in Fairfield, Conn., will become a shopping center site. The Gould family, identified with the state from 1640, had bequeathed the house and a substantial endowment to provide generations of working girls of the county with a vacation home. The program continues at the nearby Turner-Sharp homestead. In Shreveport, La., the old Howell mansion, whose gardens once occupied the entire block, will be razed for a commercial center.

Subdivisions: In Deal, N. J., the mansion designed by architect Stanford White, has been razed to provide sites for three "ranch-style" houses. *Stoneleigh Manor* near Towson, Md., erected in 1852 by a Viennese architect for Robert Patterson Brown, and occupied by his descendants until this year, makes way for a 77-house building development. On Lake Geneva, a showplace of the midwest built by Nathaniel Kellogg Fairbanks, *The Butternuts*, will see its 24-acre estate cut into small tracts and all buildings razed. In *Chicago with Love*, author Arthur Meeker described the place as "a kind of domestic Victorian museum—absurd but fascinating, ugly but adorable, as large as a town hall or railway station but somehow intensely homelike; a house unique in our time."

Parking lots: It took 46 days to wreck the old Hendrick mansion in Frankfort, Ky., to provide parking space on a municipal lot for 206 cars. Two of the oldest houses in El Paso, featuring ornate interiors of the past century, including Talavera fireplaces in every room, have been razed for space for a used car lot. The First Reformed Church of Schenectady, N. Y., will have parking space on the site of the Adam Vrooman mansion that stood in that city during the Indian massacre of 1690. The old stone building in Aurora, Ill., has been demolished to provide parking space for 170 cars. One of Toledo, Ohio's most elegant houses of the 1850 era, noted for its ornate iron grille work wrought in New Orleans and its elaborately carved marble mantels, had become a cheap rooming house with a barbecue grill and basement barber shop before its choicer features were purchased by antique dealers and it was razed for a used car lot. Charleston, S. C., lost two century old buildings on 30 George St. and gained a parking lot,

This TOWNSCAPE in Fredericksburg, Va., was once the home of the city's internationally-known pioneer oceanographer, Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, "pathfinder of the seas." It was finally destroyed in July, 1953, despite last-minute efforts of citizens' groups aided by the National Trust. From this, and similar disregard for the town's neglected heritage has grown Historic Fredericksburg, Inc., which hopes to save other distinguished but neglected landmarks.
Historic Fredericksburg, Inc.

locker club and a small business office. The pioneer Armitage house site has become a parking lot for the local electric company. Wreckers ended the 136-year life of the Hassell house in Tuscaloosa, Ala., to provide a parking lot for a nearby furniture store.

Improvements: Two school buildings, one a fine Greek revival structure erected in 1847, and the other designed by Kentucky's great architect Gideon Shryrock, no longer practical for school purposes have been demolished. To provide a site for a new elementary school, the Hilfer house, one of the oldest landmarks in Teaneck, N. J., is being razed. A bank addition will replace *The Studios* in New York City, which since the 1830's served first as a stable and then as studios for Richard Watson Gilder and other celebrities. The sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, made plaques of the Gilders' children which were mounted in the brick walls and architect, Stanford White, set Dublin fishnet sinkers into the walls. Providence, R. I., which this year lost its earliest house, the city-owned King house, lost the dwelling designed in 1840 by Russell Warren for William Foster. The architect was also designer of *The Arcade*. Other early brownstone buildings in the same block, once known as the What Cheer block, are also scheduled for demolition. A modernistic structure will replace the old Victorian Tabernacle which for almost a century was a place of worship in Ocean City, N. J., where the first camp meeting summer visitors were housed in a tent city. In Great Barrington, Mass., one of the oldest houses in the county has been razed. Built in 1740, it was noted historically as the residence of Gil Belcher, the notorious counterfeiter of Revolutionary currency, who had his presses in nearby Belcher's Cave. The Southern Berkshire Historical Association salvaged a few of the old boards and handwrought nails to make signs marking the route to the Cave, and Boy Scouts posted them.

Rose Hill Mansion now open to the public, near Laurens, S. C.
Clyde T. Franks

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Laurens, S. C. The house built in 1828 by William H. Gist, who became secessionist governor of South Carolina, has been restored and furnished by Clyde T. Franks, charter member of the Trust. *Rose Hill Mansion*, situated near Union, is open under the sponsorship, also, of the Fair Forest Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is still noted for the numerous rosebushes planted more than a century ago; its giant magnolias and geometrically planted dogwoods are also remnants of the earliest garden plan.

Sag Harbor, L. I., N. Y. The Custom House at Sag Harbor, built in 1789, has been donated to the Old Sagg-Harbour Committee, Inc., by former Gov. Charles Edison of New Jersey for permanent preservation. It was moved from its original location in 1947 to one near the Hannibal French House on Garden St. Mr. Edison purchased contiguous land to provide the historic structure with a landscaped park.

New Orleans, La. Combining slum clearance with a program of historic preservation, Vieux Carré Restorations, Inc., plan to acquire the structure at 913-5 Toulouse Street for renovation and sale. Operating like Historic Georgetown in Washington, D. C., the stockholders of the corporation are attempting to save the architectural character of the old French quarter, which is protected by special zoning legislation, and to reclaim blighted sections of it.

Cooperstown, N. Y. The N. Y. State Historical Association is looking for a century-old church for its recreated village at the Farmer's Museum. The building sought must come from within that section of the state and be able to withstand moving.

Washington, D. C. The widow and grandson of President Woodrow Wilson participated in ceremonies this fall marking the construction of the Woodrow Wilson Chapel in the Washington Cathedral. Mrs. Wilson and the Very Rev. Francis B. Sayre placed mortar with a silver trowel to seal the first stone on its base. About one-fourth of the $150,000 needed to complete the chapel has been raised. It is scheduled to be dedicated on Nov. 11, 1956—the year designated by Congress for the Wilson centennial.

Tombstone, Ariz. The old Cochise County Courthouse, which until 1929 was the seat of the county government, has been scheduled for restoration by the Tombstone Restoration Committee of the "town to tough to die." The city contributed a new roof to the old building, and the Commission and Chamber of Commerce are fixing up large rooms for their own occupancy. The Community house will install quarters to replace those in their condemned adobe structure, and the jail which housed many of the famous outlaws of the Old Southwest will house the J. H. Macia Memorial Exhibit—an exhibit of the early mining industry which made the town famous. Mrs. Edna Landin, president of the Commission, has appointed a building committee for the project.

Dearborn, Mich.—Schoolroom Progress, U. S. A., is the theme of the traveling exhibit of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. The exhibit, installed on two railroad cars designed and donated for the purpose by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, shows a pioneer log schoolhouse of 1810, a Scotch settlement schoolhouse of 1810, a city classroom of the 1890's and related school materials. Shown intially in Washington, D. C., the cars will be on tour for 3 or more years through 250 cities.

Charlottesville, Va. Dumas Malone, professor of history of Columbia University, editor and author of the definitive biography of Thomas Jefferson, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation to fill the vacancy created by the death of Fiske Kimball. *Monticello* is now undergoing extensive restoration work, and the dome familiar to millions on the U. S. nickel is being replaced according to Jefferson's original design.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The Lee Mansion (Marblehead, Mass.); Arrow Rock Tavern, Missouri State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; National Society of Colonial Dames in Tennessee; Polk Memorial Association (Tenn.); The Star Spangled Banner Flag House Association (Md.); Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Inc. (Del.); Columbia Museum of Art (S. C.); Boscobel Restoration, Inc. (N. Y.); Garden Club of Allegheny County (Pa.); Lake Forest Garden Club (Ill.); and Hammond-Harwood House Association (Md.).

ACTIVE PRESERVATION

Smithfield, Va. Work continues on the restoration of the three-century-old church under the direction of the Historic St. Luke's Restoration. James G. Van Derpool has been named to the Executive Committee, which met Nov. 28.

New Bern, N. C. Alonzo Thomas Dill is the author of the newly published *Governor Tryon and his Palace* (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1955, 304 p. bibl., index, illus. $5.00). A native of New Bern and graduate of the University of North Carolina, Mr. Dill is also author of a study of that state's colonial capital, *Eighteenth Century New Bern.* As historical research consultant for the Tryon Palace Restoration Commission, Mr. Dill has assembled materials for a biography of Governor William Tryon against the background of the social history of the provincial capital, which is presented in readable and scholarly fashion.

Carlyle, Kan. Keys to the Fred Funston homestead at Carlyle, near Iola, were presented to the Kansas State Historical Society by the surviving members of the general's family. The homestead, a gift of the family, has become a permanent memorial and state park in honor of the Kansas military hero.

Natchez, Miss. When the 12-mile section of the Natchez Trace Parkway is completed just north of Natchez, *Mt. Locust,* one of the oldest and most historic houses in the area, will be restored and used as an information center. First built 1780-84, the house was several times enlarged and served as an inn on the Trace where many travelers on the historic thoroughfare spent the night. Andrew Jackson and some of his officers spent Christmas of 1821 there. Charles E. Peterson, A.I.A., supervising architect of the Eastern Design and Construction Office of the National Park Service, is directing the work of repair and restoration.

Boston, Mass. Five prominent Boston civic leaders have been sworn in by Mayor Hines to serve on the newly-formed Beacon Hill Architectural Commission.

From the ramparts of old Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Fla., an 18-acre historical monument administered by the National Park Service, a Spanish flag of the 1750's flew on November 9 to celebrate the 283rd "cornerstone anniversary." The program was attended by representatives of the governments of Spain and the U. S., and descendants of those who participated in the first ceremony in 1672.
National Park Service

Two of the five members are members of the National Trust and of member organizations active in the campaign to preserve the architectural character of the old section of Boston; they are John S. Codman of the Beacon Hill Association; and John G. Greene representing the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

A NEW RUDE BRIDGE

Hurricane Diane swept away the concrete and steel copy of North bridge first erected over the Concord River in 1660. Where the embattled farmers fired the shot heard "round the world" the Commissioners of Public Works of Massachusetts are planning a replacement. More than 150,000 persons from all sections of the country visit the historic site annually, where, the Lafayette *Journal & Courier* reports, they have found a metal plaque commemorating, not the names of the Minute Men, but those of the road commissioners who erected the concrete and steel imitation of the historic bridge. Editorial comment throughout the country joins with the *Christian Science Monitor* in urging reproduction of the original wooden structure, "This will make it much easier to visualize British redcoats on one side of the river and militiamen in homespun on the other."

SPECIAL NOTICE: This issue of Historic Preservation combines the Fall and Winter Issues for 1955, Volume 7, Numbers 3 and 4. Instead, a copy of the first *Geographical Directory of Members* is being sent to all members, member organizations and subscribers. —H. D. B.

The house erected in 1804 by the Cherokee chieftain, Joseph Vann, at Springplace, Ga., has been restored by the Georgia Historical Commission. Dr. A. R. Kelly of Athens was director of the Commission which acquired the house in 1952 through a public subscription raised by citizens of Whitfield and Murray Counties and with the help of Cherokees in the

North Carolina plantation. Henry Chandlee Forman, A.I.A., was architect of the restoration. The house will be opened to the public as a museum of early Georgia and Cherokee history. Moravian diaries provided valuable data on the early building.

Lane Bros., Atlanta, photographers

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Brunswick, Me. Furnishings, woodwork and mantels from the dilapidated birthplace of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in an industrial section of Portland, are to be transferred to Bowdoin College where a special room will honor one of its most distinguished graduates. His later residence in Portland and his house on Brattle Street, Cambridge, have long been open to the public as memorials and museums, and efforts to save the birthplace on its site had to be abandoned.

Colby, Kans. To memorialize the sod houses built on the great plains of mid-America "The Sons and Daughters of The Soddies, Inc." have been organized. Membership is open to those born or attending school in the soddies which once dotted the plains by the thousands and are now diminished to a scattered handful—the object of search and recording.

Yucaipa, Calif. Through the cooperation of the County Board of Supervisors and the San Bernardino County Museum Association, work is in progress on the 115-year-old Sepulveda-Dunlap adobe. When work is completed the old adobe will serve as a museum of rancho days in early California.

Rodney, Miss. Old Rodney Presbyterian Church still stands in the old river town which has almost faded into oblivion. Recently, descendants of early worshippers and members from the First Presbyterian Church of Vicksburg have formulated plans for restoring the early building.

Seaville, N. J. The New Jersey Highways authority, in developing the Garden State Parkway, left a small house more than 130 years old on a center island to be preserved as an historical landmark.

Savannah, Ga. Historic Savannah, Inc., dedicated to the preservation of early architecture of that city, has announced the acquisition of the Isaiah Davenport house, a two-and-a-half story brick mansion on State Street with five bays and ornate curved exterior stairway (*ca.* 1800). The building will be maintained as office space for clubs and charities. The organization plans to spend about $50,000 on the work of renovation, and to stimulate interest in other architectural landmarks in the city.

Joplin, Mo. The ante-bellum Pinkard house, which served as headquarters for a force of bushwhackers during the Civil War, is being restored by new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Heron A. Fountain.

Tappen, N. Y. New York State Masons held special services to rededicate the 255-year-old DeWint house where George Washington stayed during the darkest days of the Revolutionary War. It was here he signed the death warrant for Major John André, who acted as a courier for Benedict Arnold in the plot to betray West Point.

Wilmington, N. C. Under the auspices of the Colonial Dames of America in North Carolina, work is continuing on restoration of the Cornwallis house on Third and Market Streets. The colonial kitchen and old well house are now in process of restoration as the third phase in the reconstruction of the colonial mansion.

Jacksboro, Texas. A drive has been started by the Jack County Historical Society for funds to preserve Historic Fort Richardson. In addition to cash, donations of stoves, utilities and museum equipment have already been made for use in the first unit of the old fort, the former hospital building.